

there. That's not what it's about. To me, it's about I know where I can put something and it gets out there, and you're helping someone. It goes back to giving back. The littlest thing can mean so much to somebody. If it's that family, if it's that crew person at the restaurant, it might be that gentleman at the gas station you see everyday. On and on . . . I think it's the biggest reward is if it's Christmas and it's breakfast with Santa and there's children, seeing those kids smile . . . I'm touched, man. That's it right there. And watching kids grow up."

Bob then stated, "'The successes and rewards are not always measured in money. There are people in East Kentucky that are as close as family. They are family—extended family here in the hills.'" The two brothers then took a moment to reflect on what it is like to work as partners in their business endeavors.

"It's very unique," said Tom, "to be in a partnership for that many years, but then it's unique added to it to be in partnership with your brother for all of those years. We are totally like night and day. Ask any of our crew. But that's part of it. I respect Bob's forte, he respects mine, but do we always agree? No. But when we sit down at a table and we have a discussion, it may not be what I sat down at the table and wanted or thought was best, but when we walk away, we're on the same mission. What is the result we want? We talk it out. It's about communication, cooperation and coordination."

"If we really hit head to head, then we do paper, scissors, rock," joked Tom.

Bob stated, "My strong points might be his weak points. His strong points might be my weak points. However, through osmosis over the years we've been able to balance each other."

"I'm a very diplomatic guy," Bob continued. "Tom likes to put a lot of bling in stuff. Tom likes to make stuff look nice. There's really nothing wrong with it, but we've went head-to-head on some of the remodels that we've done. Before, when we were allowed the luxury of picking out nice lights and nice wallpaper or quality seating, and he wanted to do things . . . we went into a boxing match over that one. I said, 'Do whatever you'd like, but keep in mind that I've got the budget.'"

#### LEAVING THE BUSINESS

The decision to move on from McDonald's, the brothers said, was linked to the death of their older brother at 70.

"Bob and I reflected on the passing of our older brother and thought when is the right time?" Tom said. "I don't know if there is a right time, but we did make a plan and so we made the availability. What was nice is that some of the perimeters we had set were like 'Who's going to come in and represent and take care of our people? Who would take care of our guests? Who is going to best reflect what we've laid a great foundation out for?' It was about finding the right team, family or person who had the same beliefs and was going to keep our company intact."

For Bob and Tom, the Faris family was the perfect fit for continuing their legacy.

Bob stated, "It was an easy decision. We've had five or six people approach us over the last couple of years without even putting a sign out. It was really easy when we saw who they (the Faris family) are personally and professionally. We knew who to sell it to. They're people-oriented."

Tom echoed the sentiment, stating, "The Farises, what they had to offer us and what they had to offer the team, I want to say that we are like book ends. Bob, Tom and the Faris family. Same core beliefs. That's what felt good."

"I wouldn't be surprised one bit if they make this organization better than it already is," said Bob.

The two brothers plan to remain in Eastern Kentucky and continue making a difference in their communities.

Tom stated, "'What's most important is that Bob and I came here almost 42 years ago to go into business. We had the opportunity to leave many times, to relocate. But we chose to stay because the mountains spoke to us and there's a lot of opportunity here. We've seen a lot of opportunity here—but the people. The people in the communities and the people that were with us in our organization—our company was really powered by people with pride and we knew we had everything we ever set out for and that we could begin and continue our foundation by staying here in Eastern Kentucky, where we chose to make our home. We're still in the community. We'll still be engrained in many things in the community. We are not leaving or abandoning, we are just taking ourselves to the next level."

Bob stated, "We will be here, we will be active, we will be involved and the thing that's keeping us here is the people—the people in the mountains. People here have been great—we've been able to help a lot of people, but there's a lot of people that have been able to help us."

Tom said the brothers are simply opening another chapter in their lives.

"We walked in together, and we're walking out together," he said. "It's a beautiful scenery."

#### TRIBUTE TO LAMAR ALEXANDER

Ms. CORTEZ MASTO. Mr. President, I would like to take a moment to recognize and thank the chair of the Senate Health, Education, Labor, and Pensions Committee and Senator from Tennessee, LAMAR ALEXANDER. Senator ALEXANDER has committed his life to public service for both the people of Tennessee and Nation. He served first as the Governor of Tennessee, then as the Secretary of Education under President George H. W. Bush from 1991 to 1993, and finally in the U.S. Senate since 2003. Senator ALEXANDER has served more years as Governor and U.S. Senator than any other Tennessean who has occupied both positions. It has been an Honor to serve with Senator ALEXANDER over the past 4 years.

As chair of the Health, Education, Labor, and Pensions Committee, Senator ALEXANDER dedicated the end of his Senate career to issues such as the opioid epidemic, supporting mental health providers, lowering prescription drug prices, and cultivating innovation in the medical field, just to name a few. During his tenure as chair Senator ALEXANDER presided over more than 70 hearings and oversaw more than 45 bills that eventually became law.

Senator ALEXANDER has dedicated his career to faithfully representing the people of our great country, believing that "the best decisions are made by those closest to the people." Thank you, again, to Senator ALEXANDER. I wish him a long and peaceful retirement, playing piano and spending time with his wife, Honey, their children and grandchildren, and dog, Rufus.

Ms. SMITH. Mr. President, I am honored to pay tribute to my colleague, Senator LAMAR ALEXANDER. When

speaking about the Senate, Senator ALEXANDER often says, "It's hard to get here, it's hard to stay here, and while you're here, you might as well try to accomplish something good for the country." Over his 18 years in this institution, he has embodied those words and has served as a guiding force of principle and bipartisanship.

Under his 6 years of leadership as chair, the Senate Health, Education, Labor, and Pensions Committee reported 45 bills that became law. It is a shining example of his commitment to working together and finding resolution on issues that directly impact Americans' lives. As a member of the HELP Committee, I am thankful to have had the opportunity to work with Senator ALEXANDER on some of these bills, such as the Opioid Crisis Response Act of 2018 and the reauthorization of the Perkins Career and Technical Education law, among others. I am also thankful for Chair ALEXANDER'S, as well as Ranking Member PATTY MURRAY'S, support for my work to lower the cost of prescription drugs and improve access to mental health services.

When I came to the Senate in 2018, Senator ALEXANDER welcomed me as a colleague and friend, for which I will always be grateful. While I will miss his esteemed, bipartisan leadership, both on the HELP Committee and in the Senate, I am grateful for his service to our country and wish him and Honey the best in their next chapter.

Ms. ROSEN. Mr. President, I would like to take this time to honor Senator LAMAR ALEXANDER. Over the past 30 years, Senator ALEXANDER has served the people of Tennessee as U.S. Senator, Governor, and U.S. Secretary of Education under President George H.W. Bush. Over the past 2 years, however, he has also been a great friend to a freshman Senator from Nevada who came from a different political party but shared his desire to get things done for the American people. Like so many in this Chamber, I will miss this dedicated public servant who sought to find common ground on the many pressing issues facing the Senate, including healthcare, education, and medical research.

Senator ALEXANDER has been a great mentor and colleague of mine in the Senate. I was grateful for how gracious he was when I first came to the Senate and for his willingness to engage me on the key issues facing Congress. As chairman of the Health, Education, Labor, and Pensions Committee, of which I am proud to be a member, Senator ALEXANDER worked tirelessly on important issues like increasing access to telehealth services, lowering health care costs, making it easier to apply for student financial aid, and advocating for our seniors. I particularly appreciated the work he did to support the fight against Alzheimer's disease and ensure we invest in robust funding for medical research.